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Message Text

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15
ORIGIN DOTE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 NSC-10 AID-20 CEQ-02

CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10

IO-14 L-03 NSF-04 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-20

SPC-03 FEA-02 INT-08 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 H-03 HEW-08

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DRAFTED BY: JBURKE
APPROVED BY: EUR/RPM:JTSCHOLLAERT
DOT/NHTSA:WHMARSH
WH: HODSOLL
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R 252023Z JAN 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL NATO CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
INFO USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, SENV
SUBJ: CCMS EXPERIMENTAL SAFETY VEHICLES

THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE DATED JANUARY 18, 1974, IS TRANSMITTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND DISSEMINATION TO APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AND AUTOMOTIVE OFFICIALS AND PRESS:

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATON TODAY ANNOUNCED THE AWARD OF CONTRACTS TOTALING DOLS 2.18 MILLION FOR PRELIMINARY DESIGN STUDIES ON AN ADVANCED STATE-OF-THE-ART RESEARCH SAFETY VEHICLE (RSV). THE 15 MONTHS PROJECT, BUILDING ON THE EXPERIENCE GAINED IN THE DEPARTMENT'S EARLIER EXPERIMENTAL SAFETY VEHICLE (ESV)
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PROGRAM, CONCENTRATES UPON DESIGNS OFFERING A MAXIMUM OF SAFETY

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PROTECTION, WITHOUT ADVERSE EFFECTS
UPON FUEL CONSUMPTION AND POLLUTION EMISSION, FOR CARS PRODUCED
IN THE 1980'S.

THE U.S. RSV PROGRAM IS A PART OF THE INTER-
NATIONAL EXPERIMENTAL SAFETY VEHICLE PROJECT WHICH HAS
BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN NATO'S COMMITTEE ON THE CHALLENGES
OF MODERN SOCIETY (CCMS). SAFETY VEHICLES IN ALL WEIGHT
CLASSES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED BY THE WORLD'S MAJOR AUTO
MANUFACTURERS (FROM FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, ITALY,
FRANCE, THE UNITED KINGDOM, SWEDEN ANDJAPAN) AS A
PART OF THIS PROGRAM. IN ADDITON TO SEVERAL U.S.
COMPANIES, VOLKSWAGEN OF THE FRG HAS BEEN SELECTED TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE ONGOING U.S. NATIONAL RSV PROGRAM.

CONTRACTORS SELECTED TO WORK ON THE FIRST PHASE OF
A PLANNED FOUR STAGE PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL
HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION (NHTSA) TO DEVELOP
A 3,000 POUND RSV, INCLUDE THE FORD MOTOR COMPANY
(DOLS 595,000); THE VOLKSWAGENWERK AG OF THE FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (DOLS 605,000); CALSPAN OF BUFFALO,
N.Y. (DOLS 351,957); THE ADVANCED SYSTEMS LABORATORY OF
AMF INCORPORATED (DOLS 398,455); AND MINICARS INCORPORATED
(DOLS 215,566); BOTH OF GOLETA, CALIFORNIA.

THE STUDY EFFORT IN THIS INITIAL STAGE WILL FIRST
DEFINE PROGRAM NEEDS THROUGH A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF
CURRENT ACCIDENT DATA WHICH WILL BE PROJECTED TO THE
MIDDLE OF THE NEXT DECADE. TRENDS ON EXPECTED AUTOMOBILE
USAGE WILL BE STUDIED, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS UPON
POPULATON GROWTH, ECONOMIC FACTORS, ROADWAY TRENDS,
ANTICIPATED REGULATIONS AND ALTERNATE METHODS OF TRANS-
PORTATION. IN ADDITION, THE STUDY WILL INCLUDE MILEAGE
TRAVELED, VEHICLE SIZE AND THE NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS. ALL
OF THIS DATA WILL BE ANALYZED AS A BASIS FOR PRELIMINARY
CONCEPTUAL DESIGNS REFLECTING COST EFFECTIVENESS AND
PROJECTED SAFETY PAYOFF. COMPLETION OF THE ANALYSES
WILL LEAD TO PROPOSALS FOR PHASE II OF THE OVERALL
PROJECT.

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FINAL DESIGN OF THE RSV WILL BE DETERMINED IN A
SECOND STAGE DEVELOPMENT OF 18 MONTHS. AN ADDITIONAL
YEAR WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE ACTUAL BUILDING OF THE
CAR, INCLUDING A FINAL REFINEMENT OF SELECTED DESIGNS.
TESTING AND EVALUATION OF THE COMPLETED RSV WILL REQUIRE
YET ANOTHER YEAR. FROM THE INITIATION OF THE FIRST PHASE
STUDY TO FINAL TESTING, THE ENTIRE PROJECT WILL CONSUME
FIVE YEARS.

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UNDER SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION JOHN W. BARNUM
CITED THE CONTRACT AWARDS AS "A COMMON SENSE APPROACH TO
A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN SAFETY WITH CONSIDERATON FOR
ECONOMIC, ECOLOGICAL AND ENGINEERING REQUIREMENTS" FOR
THE MID-1980'S.

THE ESV PROGRAM BEGAN IN 1968, UNDER A CONGRESSONAL
MANDATE TO BUILD EXPERIMENTAL AND RESEARCH VEHICLES.
MODELS OF A LARGER CAR DESIGNED TO INVESTIGATE THE
UPPER LIMITS OF SAFETY PERFORMANCE WERE BUILT BY FORD,
GENERAL MOTORS, FAIRCHILD INDUSTRIES AND AMF INCORPORATED,
AND TESTED BY NHTSA IN 1972 AND 1973. KISSINGER

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Executive Order: N/A
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